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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/867,918	05/29/2001	Christopher E. Pearce	062891.0608	7544

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EXAMINER

KNOWLIN, THUAN P

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2614

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/09/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Notice of this Office communication was sent electronically on the above-indicated "Notification Date" and has a shortened statutory period for reply of 3 MONTHS from 02/09/2007.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/867,918

Applicant(s)

PEARCE, CHRISTOPHER E.

Examiner

Thjuan P. Knowlin

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 May 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 December 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

Arrangement of the Specification

2. As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) THE NAMES OF THE PARTIES TO A JOINT RESEARCH AGREEMENT.
- (e) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC.
- (f) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
 - (1) Field of the Invention.
 - (2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (g) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.
- (h) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).
- (i) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.
- (j) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (l) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: On page 5, of the specification, Applicant has the section heading "DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF

THE DRAWINGS", however, the section heading should be, "DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hinchey et al (US Patent Application, Pub. No.: US 2002/0122547 A1).
5. In regards to claims 1 and 13, Hinchey discloses a method, logic, and apparatus for telephony call management (See Abstract and pg. 1, paragraph [0008]) comprising: maintaining dial plan data comprising a plurality of route pattern definitions, each route pattern definition comprising one or more sub-strings each having an associated tag (See pg. 3-4, paragraph [0044] – [0045] and pg. 4, paragraph [0047]); maintaining configured routing data comprising a configured route pattern including an expansion indicator (See pg. 5, paragraph [0054]); accessing the configured routing data to read the configured route pattern; identifying the expansion indicator in the configured route pattern; accessing the dial plan data responsive to identifying the expansion indicator; and while accessing the dial plan data, for each of the route pattern definitions in the

dial plan data; generating a route pattern based on the one or more sub-strings for the route pattern definition; and entering the generated route pattern into a live dial database (See Fig. 1, route database/route server 114 and Fig. 3, route database 326) for use in routing calls placed by users (See pg. 3, paragraph [0036]; pg. 5, paragraph [0055]; and pg. 6, paragraph [0060] – [0061]).

6. In regards to claims 2, 8, and 14, Hinchey discloses the method, apparatus, and logic, wherein: the dial plan data implements North American Numbering Plan (See pg. 3, paragraph 0043]; and the live dial database specifies routing of telephone calls from managed voice over Internet protocol (VoIP) devices (See pg. 1, paragraph [0005] and pg. 2-3, paragraph [0034]).

7. In regards to claims 3, 9, and 15, Hinchey discloses the method, apparatus, and logic, wherein the dial plan data further comprise a text file listing each of the route pattern definitions (See pg. 6, paragraph [0061] and pg. 7-8, paragraph [0078]).

8. In regards to claims 4, 5, 10, 11, 16, and 17, Hinchey discloses the method, apparatus, and logic, wherein: the configured routing data further comprise a route filter (See Fig. 3 and routing policies 320); and the method further comprises, for each of the route pattern definitions in the dial plan data, generating the route pattern and entering the generated route pattern into the live database if the route pattern definition satisfies the route filter (See pg. 6, paragraph [0060] – [0061]).

9. In regards to claims 6, 12, and 18, Hinchey discloses the method, apparatus, and logic, wherein the configured routing data further comprise digit discard instructions, the digit instruction specifying digits to retain when routing calls placed by users, the digits

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specified using the associated tags (See pg. 5-6, paragraph [0058] and pg. 6, paragraph [0064]).

10. In regards to claims 7 and 20, Hinchey discloses a telephony call management apparatus (See Fig. 9 and computer system 900) comprising: a memory (See Fig. 9, operating memory 912, and storage memory 916) storing a call management application (See pg. 8, paragraph [0085] – [0087]), a live dial database, configured routing data comprising at least one configured route pattern that includes an expansion indicator, and dial plan data comprising a plurality of route pattern definitions, each route pattern definition comprising one or more sub-strings each having an associated tag (See pg. 3-4, paragraph [0044] – [0045] and pg. 4, paragraph [0047]); and a processor (See Fig. 9 and processor 908) operable, when executing the call management application (See pg. 8, paragraph [0085] and pg. 8, paragraph [0088]), to access each route pattern in the configured routing data, to identify the expansion indicator, and, responsive to identifying the expansion indicator, to access the dial plan data and, for each of the route pattern definitions in the dial plan data, to generate a route pattern based on the route pattern definition and to enter the generated route pattern into the live dial database (See pg. 3, paragraph [0036]; pg. 5, paragraph [0055]; and pg. 6, paragraph [0060] – [0061]).

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Bollinger et al (US Patent Application, Pub. No.: US

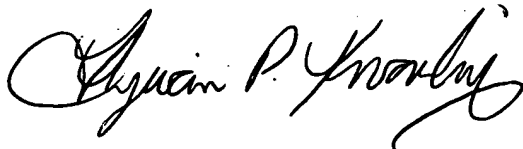
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2006/0002380 A1) teach a method and dial plan for packet based voice communications functionality. Bollinger et al (US 7,113,500) teach a method and dial plan for packet based voice communications functionality.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thjuan P. Knowlin whose telephone number is (571) 272-7486. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00pm.

13. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar can be reached on (571) 272-7488. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

14. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



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PATENT EXAMINER
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